

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1 - 12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for carrying a vehicle spare tire comprising:

a tire support capable of movement ~~through a plurality of positions~~ about a horizontal axis and vertical axes;

at least one lug for securing the tire to the tire support; and

material extending past the lug which supports the tire in a manner to permit the tire to rotate and be aligned with the lug, wherein said material is capable of supporting the tire throughout the ~~plurality of positions~~ through which said tire support can travel about the horizontal axis, thereby enabling tire rotation at any of the positions.

14. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to Claim 13, wherein

said material is circular and

the circumference of the material is extent at least about 240°.

15. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to Claim 13, wherein

said material is circular and

the circumference of the material is extent up to 360°.

16. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to Claim 13, wherein

said material is circular and

the circumference of the material is extent 360°.

17. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to Claim 13, wherein

said material is circular and

the circumference of the material is extent between at least 240° and 360°.

18. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to Claim 13, wherein

said material is circular and

the circumference of the material is extent to meaningfully connect with the interior opening of a tire rim.

19. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for carrying a vehicle spare tire, having a spare tire support capable of movement ~~through a plurality of positions~~ about a horizontal axis, between a raised position wherein the spare tire is located above ground and a lowered position wherein the spare tire substantially contacts the ground, and a vertical axis, said apparatus comprising:

said tire support for mounting a tire having a rim with an interior opening;
at least one lug for securing the tire to the tire support;
material extending past the lug which supports the tire in a manner to permit the tire to rotate and be aligned with the lug.

20. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to Claim 19, wherein said support is provided throughout the plurality of positions through which said swing a pivot arm can travel about the said horizontal axis, thereby enabling tire rotation at any of the positions.

21. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to Claim 20, wherein the material provides support throughout at least a major portion of the interior opening in the rim.

22 -26 (Canceled)

27. (New) A tire rotating apparatus comprising:
a tire spinner affixed to a tire support affixed to a distal end of a pivot arm movable about a horizontal axis and pivotally attached to a swing arm pivotally attached to a vehicle at one end,

said spinner comprising material attached to and extending away from said tire support, thereby supporting a tire in a manner permitting tire rotation.

28. (New) The apparatus according to Claim 27, further comprising:

said tire spinner capable of maintaining any position of which said tire support can move about said horizontal axis, including a raised position wherein the tire is located above ground and a lowered position wherein the spare tire contacts the ground.

29. (New) The apparatus according to Claim 28, further comprising:

said tire support having at least one lug for securing the tire to said tire support, wherein the length said lug extends away from the tire support is less than the length said supporting material extends away from the tire support.

30. (New) The apparatus according to Claim 29, further comprising:

said swing arm being movable about a vertical axis.

31. (New) The apparatus according to Claim 29, further comprising:

a means for allowing said pivot arm to be moved and maintained throughout a plurality of positions about said horizontal axis.

32. (New) The apparatus according to Claim 29, wherein:

a winch is fixed at one end to said swing arm, said winch having a cable connected to said pivot arm, thereby allowing said pivot arm to be moved and maintained throughout a plurality of positions about said horizontal axis.

33. (New) The apparatus according to Claim 31, wherein

said means for said pivot arm to be moved and maintained throughout a plurality of positions about said horizontal axis is electrically operated.

34. (New) The apparatus according to Claim 31, wherein

said means for said pivot arm to be moved and maintained throughout a plurality of positions about said horizontal axis is motorized.

35. (New) The apparatus according to Claim 33, wherein

said material is circular and

the circumference of the material is extent up to 360°.

36. (New) The apparatus according to Claim 33, wherein

said material is circular and

the circumference of the material is extent 360°.

37. (New) The apparatus according to Claim 33, wherein

said material is circular and

the circumference of the material is extent between at least about 240° and 360°.